



Kaleidoscope

Volume 6

Article 17

September 2015

Beckman Scholars Program

UK Office of Undergraduate Research

Follow this and additional works at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/kaleidoscope>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Right click to open a feedback form in a new tab to let us know how this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Office of Undergraduate Research, UK (2007) "Beckman Scholars Program," *Kaleidoscope*: Vol. 6, Article 17.
Available at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/kaleidoscope/vol6/iss1/17>

This Beckman Scholars Program is brought to you for free and open access by the The Office of Undergraduate Research at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kaleidoscope by an authorized editor of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.

Chellgren Center Highlights from 2006-2007

On the following pages, several of the highlights of Chellgren Center-associated programs during the previous academic year are described. Students from several eUreKa! programs relate their research, including the Beckman Scholars Program, the summer research and creativity awards, the UKURP (UK Undergraduate Research Program), support for undergraduate travel to scholarly conferences, and the Oswald Research and Creativity Program. Finally, a gallery of images from the second annual UK Showcase of Scholars, an event sponsored by the UK student Society for the Promotion of Undergraduate Research (S.P.U.R.), is presented.

Paul W. Chellgren

The benefactors of the Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence are Paul W. Chellgren and his family. A UK graduate, Mr. Chellgren was an Honors Program student and star intercollegiate debater. He subsequently earned a Harvard MBA and a D.D.E. from Oxford University, where he has been named an Honorary Fellow. In addition to a celebrated career in business, one that included service as the CEO of Ashland Inc., Mr. Chellgren has been a very active UK alumnus, having served for eleven years on the UK Board of Trustees. The generous gift from Mr. Chellgren and his family helped establish the Chellgren Endowed Chair and five named professorships.



Paul W. Chellgren

BECKMAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Megan Culler



Kathryn Schweri

The Beckman Scholars Program, established in 1997, is an invited program for accredited universities and four-year colleges in the US. It provides scholarships that contribute significantly to advancing the education, research training and personal development of select students in chemistry, biochemistry, and the biological and medical sciences. The sustained, in-depth undergraduate research experiences and comprehensive faculty mentoring are unique in terms of program scope, content, and level of scholarship awards. The University of Kentucky has been invited to apply for the program three times, and was selected to participate for three years beginning in 2002 and again in 2005. UK's application for 2008 has recently been approved by the Foundation.

The Beckman Scholars Program provides support for no more than three outstanding undergraduate researchers per year. Scholars receive support for two summers and the intervening academic year, including a generous scholarship award plus stipends for supplies and travel. Scholars must conduct their research in chemistry, biochemistry, the biological and medical sciences, or some interdisciplinary combination of these disciplines, in the laboratory of and under the mentorship of a University of Kentucky faculty member approved by the Beckman Foundation.

Being named a Beckman Scholar is an extraordinarily high honor. The process by which a scholar is selected is quite rigorous. The selection is conducted by a committee of research faculty members each with a strong record of mentoring undergraduate researchers. The selection process evaluates 1) the ability of the candidate in both written and oral communication by considering a required research essay and conducting an interview of each finalist; 2) the past achievements of the candidate by reviewing the entire undergraduate transcript, academic honors received, and all previous research experience; 3) the candidate's intellect, character, and potential to excel as a researcher by appraising a required

BECKMAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

written research plan and at least three letters of support from current and prospective faculty mentors and 4) the candidate's potential for a career in research by evaluating a required written statement of educational and career plans.

To apply to become a Beckman Scholar, a student must be a sophomore or junior at the University of Kentucky, majoring in Chemistry, Biology, or a closely related discipline (such as chemical engineering or agricultural biotechnology), and have already completed at least one semester of research experience.

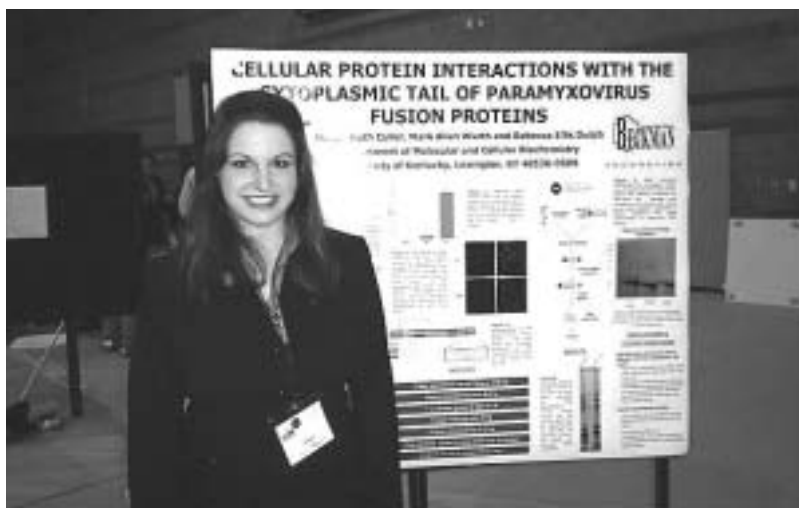
The Beckman Scholars for the year 2006-2007 were Megan Culler (mentored by Professors Rebecca Dutch and Diane Snow) and Kathryn Schweri (mentored by Professor Chris Schardl). The Beckman Scholars for the year 2007-2008 are Andrew Lynch (mentored by Professors Dibakar Bhattacharyya and Allen Butterfield) and Eddie Kobraei (mentored by Professor Diane Snow). In the following articles, the 2006-2007 Scholars explain and discuss their research.

For more information on the Beckman Scholars Program at the University of Kentucky, visit www.uky.edu/beckman.

AUTHOR **Megan Culler** Beckman Scholar 2006-07



Mentor:
Rebecca E. Dutch,
Ph.D., Department of
Molecular and Cellular
Biochemistry,
College of Medicine



I am a junior at the University of Kentucky majoring in Agricultural Biotechnology. I am a Singletary Scholar and a Beckman Fellow and plan to attend an MD/PhD program. My experiences with undergraduate research and the Beckman Fellowship have definitely prepared me for the kinds of research and higher learning I will be doing in the future, through being independent in the lab and learning to collaborate with others. I enjoy participating in community theatre, mainly musicals, traveling, French language and culture, and reading about viruses.

My experiences at the University of Kentucky have been shaped not only by my personal interests and motivations, but also to a great extent by the suggestions and encouragements of my advisor, Dr. Glenn Collins. Within the first ten minutes of meeting Dr. Collins, before I had started my undergraduate career or decided on which University to attend, I shared with him my love of science and interest in research. He successfully convinced me to enroll at UK as an Agricultural Biotechnology major. Since that first meeting, Dr. C, as most of his students call him, has contributed numerous suggestions involving my educational experiences, each of which I take without hesitation.

Dr. C knows what I enjoy and need to do often earlier than I do. He nominated me to be an ambassador for the College of Agriculture, which has been one of my favorite activities during my

